

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

Our access to information on the airwaves we own has already been compromised far too much by the concentration of ownership of media in the hands of the few.

It is time the FCC remember whose mandate they've been given – to protect and maintain the valuable resource that all Americans, rich or poor, have a right to.

It is my right to hear in the media the myriad voices that represent the diversity of our democracy.